Pilgrimages to Buddhist sacred places are popular, especially to the sacred mountains. Printed directions exist for comportment while engaged in them, a special garb may be worn, incense-burners may be carried, songs may be sung, and, in some instances, the pilgrim may prostrate himself at every step. Societies often exist for the conduct of pilgrimages, aiding and directing the pilgrims and sometimes supported by what in effect is compulsory taxation. By a pilgrimage properly performed special merit is believed to be acquired or a vow fulfilled for the healing of the participant or one of his kin.

Many of the numerous religious associations of lay people to be mentioned later have a partially or even purely Buddhist character. Some are vegetarian, requiring their members to abstain from the taking of life and, as a corollary, from eating meat. Some burn incense. A few enjoin celibacy, and others are for the reading of a particular Buddhist writing or for the repetition of a prayer or prayers or of the name of some divinity.

It is, then, not only among the monks and nuns that Buddhism has an influence, but also upon a large proportion of the masses of the nation. Even those who never support its ceremonies or read its writings are more or less unconsciously influenced by it—possibly in their conceptions of the life after death or in their ethical standards. Even to-day, after all the changes brought to the country by the irruption of the Occident, Buddhism is a force with which to reckon.

## TAOISM

In many ways Taoism in the past few generations has been not nearly so vital in China as has Buddhism. Its organization

is not so strong, it is much more encumbered by unintelligent superstition, and there has not been so much scholarship in the ranks of its devotees. It has been, too, in many ways a slavish imitation of Buddhism. In its priesthood, its canon, with hundreds of volumes written in the form of Buddhist sutras, and in its acceptance of the idea of transmigration and of karma, Taoism has copied the foreign faith. For all that, however, Taoism has had and still has a profound influence, an influence which its very addiction to popular superstitions has probably strengthened.

As in the case of Buddhism, the only ones who can in the strict